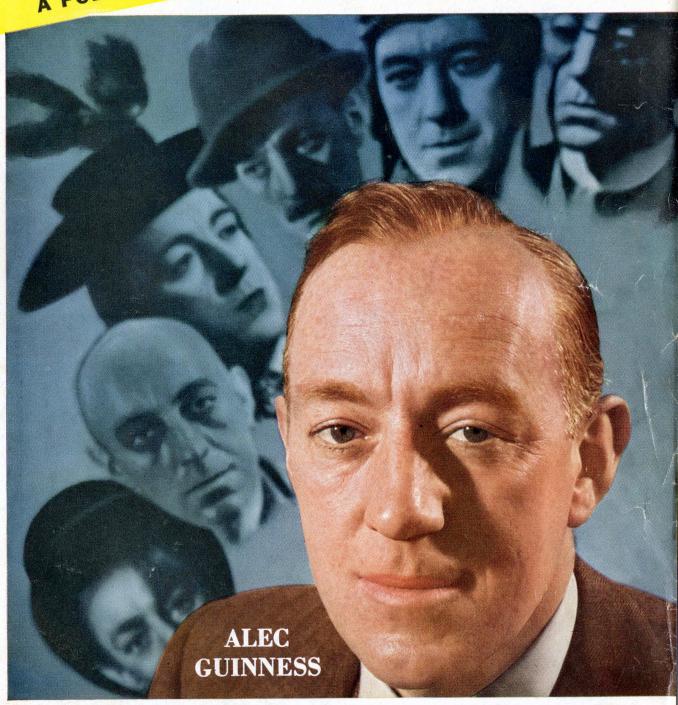
ICH STATE OF THE TOP EXPERTS (Special National Report) APRIL 16, 1956 20c



Britain's Man of Many Faces: U.S. Masses Go for Him (See Special Entertainment Report)

Living in Space

In experiments taking place over the last couple of years, Air Force pilots, clad in bulky flying suits and other protective gear, have been blasted 17 miles from the earth in the rocket-powered Bell X-1A, but only for a minute or two. Last week, at the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, a 19-year-old aeromedical technician, Dalton F. Smith Jr. of New Orleans, set a new record—he lived safely and comfortably for 24 hours under outer-space conditions. It was one third of the time that he would have taken to reach the moon in a space ship.

Airman Smith made the trip on the ground, in a simulated space cabin designed by Dr. Hubertus Strughold, head of the school's department of space medicine. The hermetically sealed "cabin" supplies its own oxygen, removes waste products by chemical means, and recirculates body moisture to cool the cabin and to purify it for drinking water.

Air Force doctors observed Smith through glass ports, talked to him on the intercom system, and recorded his respiration and pulse and the cabin's temperature. With their findings, the scientists hope to be able to determine the exact conditions that will make for a safe climate on prolonged flights.

Alcoholism: The Worst and the Best

Which American city, amateur controversialists have long debated, is the drinkingest? A Yale University survey, published last week in the sober Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, gave some impressive statistical evidence. The city with "by far" the highest rate of alcoholism among U.S. cities of more than 100,000 population: San Francisco.

San Francisco has a record of 4,190 "alcoholics with complications" (those with recognizable physical or mental symptoms from excessive drinking) for each adult in 100,000. The runners-up: Sacra-

mento, Calif., with a rate of 2,780; and Louisville, Ky., with 2,380.

Interestingly enough, the nation's largest city, New York (with an alcoholism rate of 1,550), did not even make the first 25 heavy-drinking municipalities. St. Louis (1,620) and Detroit (1,450) also looked fairly temperate. At the other end of the list, the lowest alcoholism rate—440 for each 100,000 adults—was reported for Austin, Texas, and Charlotte, N.C. Also far down on the list: Berkeley, Calif., 470; Oklahoma City, 490; Phoenix, Ariz., 520; and Norfolk, Va., 540.

Coggeshall's Cures

To his colleagues, Dr. Lowell Thewell Coggeshall is known as one of the most persuasive leaders and successful moneyraisers in medicine. As dean of the University of Chicago's division of biological sciences, the lanky scientist from Indiana turned it into one of the great medical centers of the world. This week at 54, as a \$15,000-a-year special medical ad-

viser to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, "Coggie" was at work helping Secretary Marion B. Folsom buck up HEW's sagging medical program.

On April 11, he plans to urge the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee to support a new administration bill for Federal help to United States medical schools in a program for revamping outmoded facilities.

His own university presents almost a model study in how a medical school can be rehabilitated. In his nine years as dean, since 1947, the division almost doubled its budget -to \$9.7 million in 1955. Coggeshall is credited with building the university's atomically famous Argonne Hospital, the Charles Gilman Smith Hospital for infectious diseases, and the Nathan Goldblatt Memorial Hospital for cancer research.

As special medical adviser, Coggeshall may have to use all his fund-raising tricks for the government next year, when HEW demands an expanded health budget for 1958. (Proposed 1957 budget: \$435 million.) Meanwhile, he is scrutinizing these specific problems:

The Cost of Medical Care: "Something must be done to check these costs for they have risen out of all proportion to other expenses. One suggestion I have is a sort of hospital-hotel. A wing of a hospital would be set aside for people who do not need the usual expensive care. They could perform many services for themselves."

Health Insurance: "We are not reaching the solitary, the rural, or the itinerant worker, nor many of the aged. We need more insurance for the expensive and disastrous medical illnesses."

Basic Medical Research: "We must spend more money on research. This means building up the nation's laboratories and providing higher salaries for lab investigators. I would like to see better pay for scientists in government."

The Nursing Problem: "We need to accent the training of practical nurses and aids. The doctor has all sorts of helpers, but the professional nurse is bogged down with a number of things she shouldn't be doing."

Health Survey: "We are asking Congress to provide for a survey of illness and disability in the U.S. We have very little idea how many people are sick, how long they are ill, and how much it costs them."

On the subject of the Federal influence on medicine, Coggeshall speaks softly. "My philosophy is that we should help private and state institutions do things, not take over the medical field. We should assist and exert leadership."

